

59-61 South Market Street (Commercial Building)  
Frederick  
Frederick County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-902

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

59-61 SOUTH MARKET STREET (COMMERCIAL BUILDING)

HABS No. MD-902

Location of Building: 59-61 South Market Street, Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland. The Universal Transvers Mercator Coordinates are Zone 18, Easting 292250, Northing 4365078.

Note: The Ye What Not Shoppe Building was assigned the address of 57 South Market Street in error. The correct address for the building is 59-61 South Market Street, Frederick, Maryland.

Present Owner and Occupant: The City of Frederick, Maryland.  
79 North Market Street, Frederick, Maryland.

Present Use: The building is unoccupied and is scheduled to be demolished July, 1984 in order to widen Carroll Creek for a flood control project

Significance: 59-61 South Market Street is primarily significant as an early nineteenth century structure (c.1820) which embodies the distinctive characteristics of Federal style and Victorian Commercial Italianate architecture in a local vernacular interpretation. The building contributes to the nineteenth century character of the South Market Streetscape as described in the National Register nomination for the Frederick Historic District. The building also reflects the development of Market Street in Frederick into a major commercial center for the region. This development is reflected in the building by the Italianate storefront which replaced a residential facade in the late nineteenth century and interior changes, primarily on the first level from residential spaces to large commercial areas. Numerous additions to the south and rear of the building further document an active commercial past as an eating house and lunch room, pawn shop, men's clothing store and variety shop. The building has made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history in the Frederick community.

Part I Historical Information

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection

The exact date of construction and name of the architect/builder is not known. However, local tradition, stylistic features, and referral to the land records for the property date the construction of the building c. 1816-1821. Earliest reference to the property is the transfer of Lots 15 and 16 to John Walling by Thomas Carlin on November 28, 1821 for a total of \$1000. (Liber JS 14, Folio 551, Frederick County Land Records)

2. Original and Subsequent Owners

Reference to the chain of title to the land upon which the structure stands is in the Records Room and Register of Wills of the Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick, Maryland.

1821 Deed, November 28, 1821 recorded in Liber JS 14, Folio 551, Thomas Carlin to John Walling.

1835 Will, Executed September 28, 1835 recorded in the Register of Wills, Liber GME 2, Folio 96, John Walling to James Walling.

2. Original and Subsequent Owners, continued

- 1841 Deed, August 24, 1841 recorded in Liber HS 14, Folio 45, James and Caroline Walling to Alexander B. Hanson.
- 1862 Deed, January 2, 1862 recorded in Liber JWLC 1, Folio 83, Alexander B. Hanson and Susan W. Hanson to Henry Koester.
- 1888 Decree of the Circuit Court of Equity, August 24, 1888, recorded as Case No. 5415, Lewis Koester vs. George W. Whalley.
- 1888 Deed, October 25, 1888 recorded in Liber WIP 6, Folio 516, F. Marion Faubel, Trustee, to Lewis Koester.
- 1889 Deed, December 27, 1889 recorded in Liber WIP 11, Folio 271, Alice H. Koester and Lewis Koester to Catherine E. Bentz.
- 1890 Deed, April 25, 1890 recorded in Liber WIP 11, Folio 272, Catherine E. Bentz to Aliace E. Koester.
- 1920 Deed, April 1, 1920, recorded in Liber 331, Folio 154, Alice H. Koester to David and Minnie Gordon.
- 1960 Deed, February 22, 1960 recorded in Liber 632, Folio 401, Minnie Gordon to Henry Y. Gordon.
- 1983 Deed, June 30, 1983 recorded in Liber 1203, Folio 881, Henry Y. Gordon to the City of Frederick, Maryland

3. Original plans and construction

59-61 South Market Street was originally constructed on the west side of South Market Street facing east, as a two and one half story gable roofed masonry residence two bays deep and three bays wide with an ell shaped two story wing one bay wide and four in depth extending to the west side of the main block. Because of its close proximity to Carroll Creek, the building was built on a random stone foundation banked against Carroll Creek. The building to the north located at 57 South Market Street, constructed in the early twentieth century was built against 59-61 South Market Street.

The first level of the front facade of the main block of the building was substantially changed from its original appearance in the late nineteenth century by the construction of a wooden Italianate style storefront which extends across the southern two bays of the building. The storefront is constructed of replaced extruded aluminum framing set into an original recessed paneled apron on either side of the entranceway. A wide wood cornice with fluted scrolled brackets is supported by fluted pilasters in relief that flank the store entrance. A dentiled frieze originally decorated the base of the architrave trim on the frieze of the cornice. Stylistic features and local tradition indicate that the storefront was installed c. 1870.

The growth and development of the building can be traced through an examination of outlines of the building on maps dating from 1858 through 1930.

#### 4. Alterations and Additions

Earliest records and physical evidence of the building indicate that the original structure was an ell shaped building with a two story open frame porch facing Carroll Creek from the south side of the rear ell addition. The building was constructed of brick.

- 1858 The Isaac Bond Map of Frederick County of 1858 shows a simple ell shaped building as described above.
- 1873 The Titus Atlas of Frederick County of 1873 also shows no changes to the original ell shaped building.
- 1887 The August, 1887 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Frederick City shows the ell shaped building with a two story open porch and three new additions. A small square one story frame addition is located south of the main block of the building and two one story square sheds are located in the rear (west side) of the building.
- 1892 The July, 1892 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the building unchanged since 1887. A small square frame building has been placed in the south yard and is unattached to the building. On the interior, the north and south sides of the main block of the building are separated into different spaces for the first time.
- 1897 The August, 1897 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows a larger one story frame addition in the rear of the building (west side) and the once separate building in the yard has been removed. A one story frame addition has been added to the existing one story frame addition on the south side of the building.
- 1904 The September, 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows that the one story addition south of the building has been raised to a height of two stories.
- 1911 The July, 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the one story addition to the south side of the building is extended north from the creek to the porch along the south side of the ell addition.
- 1922 The June, 1922 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the additions on the south side of the building have been consolidated into one two story addition. The rear (west side addition) has been dramatically enlarged to the west of the building.

#### 4. Alterations and Additions, continued

1930 The May, 1930 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows two additional one story additions in the southwest corner of the building. The entire building is shown as one store which is connected to 53-57 South Market Street. The building has remained in this form until the present day.

#### **B. Historical Context:**

The need for alterations and additions to the building closely follows the history of the use of the building.

The earliest reference to the building, found in the will of John Walling who died September 28, 1835 indicates that the building was a residence, "I give and devise unto my son, James Walling, the house and lot on Market Street..." (Register of Wills Liber GME 2, Folio 96).

In 1862, the property was sold to Henry Koester (Liber JWLC 1, Folio 83). It is recorded in Williams Frederick Directory City Guide and Business Mirror 1859-60 that Henry Koester ran a confectionary and bakery on the north side of Patrick and Bentz Street in Frederick. Whether 59-61 South Market Street became the location of his business in 1862 is not known. However, in 1888, Equity Court Case No. 5415 ordered that the property be sold to Lewis Koester. Lewis Koester is also listed in the 1859-60 directory as a confectioner and baker at the same location at Patrick and Bentz Street as Henry Koester, a relative.

The 1892 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map is the first map to show a separation between the north and south sides of the main block of the building. In 1897, the Sanborn Map indicates that an "Eating House" was established in the northwest corner of the building and that an eating house/ lunch counter continued in operation in that location until at least 1911 as shown on the Sanborn Maps of 1904 and 1911. Mr. Paul Gordon, son of the last owner of the building has a flier from a "Green Parrot" restaurant which occupied the restaurant c. 1900.

In 1920, the building was purchased by David and Minnie Gordon (Liber 331, folio 154). David Gordon came to Frederick in 1910 from Baltimore and originally opened a store on East All Saints Street. In 1920, Dave and Minnie Gordon established Dave's Mens Clothing Store and c. 1920-22 purchased the adjacent buildings at 53-57 South Market Street and built the existing buildings specifically for use as a clothing store.

Dave's Mens Wear Clothing Store was purchased by a son, Henry Gordon, in 1960 (Liber 632 Folio 401) and the rear of 59-61 South Market Street was used for storage until 1983. The front section of the building was used as a pawn shop until the 1970's when it became the Ye What Not Shoppe, a novelty shop which operated until the City of Frederick's purchase of the building in 1983.

#### **Part II Architectural Information**

The architectural character of 59-61 South Market Street, Frederick, Maryland, although the building has been subjected to substantial alterations and additions over more than 150 years, primarily is characterized by Federal style and late nineteenth century Victorian commercial architecture.

Part II Architectural Information, continued

The Federal style of architecture is characterized in the building by the recessed raised panel exterior entrance in the northeast facade, delicate interior beaded window and door surrounds which have survived, the simple Federal style mantels and plain linear main stairway. The Victorian commercial style with Italianate details on the storefront is characterized by the ornate scrolled brackets supporting the storefront cornice, paneled storefront aprons, German siding and 2/2 windows on the rear frame additions and board and batten siding and a fluted cast iron column on the interior of the store area.

The main block of the building and additions are in fair to poor condition. Portions of the main block's gable roof are rusting and the foundation and lower portions of the buildings, particularly in the southwest corner of the rear one story brick addition, are deteriorating due to past flooding conditions and moisture. Sheets of tin have been placed over the deteriorated wood sections in the local portions of the frame addition.

The main block of the building and additions are constructed on a low rubble stone foundation which has been parged with cement. The foundation of the south side of the main block has been banked against the stream and fortified by a cement base.

The main block of the building, ell shaped two story addition and one story rear addition are constructed of brick masonry laid in common bond with wood joists and roof rafters. The north wall of the main block of the building has been parged with cement. The two story addition located on the south side of the building is built with balloon framing covered with German siding.

Although a two story open porch once extended along the south side of the rear ell addition, the porch was removed when additions were constructed c.1920. There are no other porches, stoops, or balconies located on the building.

There are four chimneys on the building. A single interior brick chimney with corbelled top is centered in the north and south gable ends. Two plain single brick chimneys are located in the rear ell addition, one in the center of the ell and one in the northwest corner.

There are two doorways leading from the exterior into the building. Both are located on the first level of the east elevation. A single full glass panel wood door with simple hardware is centered in the storefront recessed approximately five feet from the face of the building. A second entrance which leads to the stairway and hall to the upper floors is located in the northeast corner of the building. The doorway is a Federal style recessed doorway with raised panels on either side of the entrance and overhead. One vertical raised panel is located on either side of the entrance and a smaller raised panel is located over the doorway. An original four light transom which has been boarded shut is located over the door which is a replaced c. 1920 full glass panel wood door. A cornice with architrave molding separates the transom from the door.

Three replaced double hung one over one windows with wood lintels are located in each bay on the second level of the main block on the east side

Part II Architectural Information, continued

of the building. These windows have been covered by new stationary louvered wood shutters.

Two four pane windows with wood lintels straddle the chimney on the south side of the main block of the building in the gable.

The two story frame addition which extends south and west of the main front block of the building is two bays deep and one bay wide. Each bay on each level is occupied by double hung two over two windows. The rear one story brick addition is six bays wide. Vertical one by one windows occupy each bay near the roof line on the south side of the one story brick addition located along the west side and rear south sides of the building. There are no windows located on the west wall of the one story brick addition. Two windows, now boarded shut, are located on the second level and gable of the west side of the two story ell addition. These openings once accommodated a four pane window with wood lintel and double hung six over six window with wood lintel, both of which are still intact on the interior of the building behind the plywood boarding. Remaining shutter hardware indicates that shutters were once located on the main block and ell addition of the building. Original double hung six over six windows are located on the south side of the second level of the ell addition which have been boarded shut or are now located on the interior of the building.

A standing seam tin gable roof covers the main block of the building. The rear ell addition is covered by a standing seam tin shed roof has been covered with tar. A shallow built up shed roof covers the rear frame and brick additions.

A stepped brick cornice of three bricks extends across the east elevation of the main block of the building. A wood fascia board extends along the roofline on the south side of the main block. A boxed wood cornice is located on the south side of the frame addition and a plain wood fascia board in deteriorated condition extends across the west elevation on the rear brick addition.

There are no dormers, cupolas, towers or other decorative structures located on the building.

Description of the Interior

The interior of the building has been subjected to numerous changes in use and alterations.

The room which has been subjected to the least amount of change is the center room on the second level extending west of the main block in the ell addition. This room has retained the double hung six over six windows and window surrounds which originally faced an open porch, original beaded door surround in one opening and a Federal style mantle.

Three staircases are located in the building. The main stair rises to the second level from the northeast corner of the building. The open stair rises along the north wall of the building and gently curves to the south as it reaches the second level. The stair is decorated by a turned newel post and plain square balustrades made of wood. The area supporting the stair is plastered and plain wood paneling with no decoration is located beneath each riser on the south side of the stairs.

A second original stair to the attic area is located directly over

## Part II Architectural Information, continued

### Description of the Interior

the main stair and is a plain enclosed staircase with vertical plank boarding on either side and no handrail.

A third staircase rises to the second level, from west to east, from the rear one story brick addition and appears to have been constructed c. 1920 to provide access to the second level from the rear additions.

Linoleum flooring over pine flooring is located in the main block store and entry hall areas. Narrow wood pine floors are located throughout the rest of the building except in the attic area of the main block. Original wide hand finished planks remain on the floor of the unfinished attic.

Most of the original main block and rear ell addition walls and ceilings are finished with horse and pig hair plaster. The exceptions are the false walls in the main entrance hall on the south and west sides, which separate the hall from the store area and are constructed of board and batten wainscoating. The walls of the store area are finished with floor to ceiling or four foot high board and batten wainscoating which extends along the north and south walls to the rear one story brick additions.

The interior walls of the frame addition on the second level are also paneled or constructed of board and batten wainscoating. The front room on the second level of the main block is divided in the north end by a wall constructed of wainscoating which has been covered with wallpaper. The east walls of the one story brick addition are finished in painted exposed brick. The remainder of the walls are plaster covered as are all of the ceilings.

The door surrounds throughout the building are either plain wood surrounds with no decoration c. 1920 or original simple Federal style trim which is plain wood with square recess in the center of the trim and beaded molding on the edge. Original trim is located throughout the Main block and ell addition of the building except in the store area and one doorway into the middle room on the second floor of the ell addition.

Window surrounds match the original door surrounds of Federal style trim with square recess in the center and beaded molding on the edge on all windows in the rear ell addition on the second level. The remainder of the window surrounds are plain wood with no decoration or with half round molding and machine made circular corner blocks.

Two Federal style mantles are the only decorative features which have remained in the building. One is located in the south room on the second floor of the main block, the second is located in the middle room on the second level of the rear ell addition. Both mantles are five feet wide and four feet high, approximately. The fireplace opening on the one located in the main block has been closed with a metal cover. Both have a wide overhanging shelf with plain wood frieze and shallow molded cornice. Small square molding is located at the base of the frieze which is supported by two square columns in relief supported by square bases.

The building was heated by hot water cast iron radiators with a converted coal fired oil furnace. Nothing remains of earlier lighting systems.



Project Information

59-61 South Market Street, Frederick, Maryland is being demolished as part of the stream widening for the Carroll Creek Flood Control Project funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The historical and architectural information was prepared by Cherilyn Widell, 115 East Third Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701 and the photographic documentation was completed by Harriet Wise, 17 East Second Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701. The documentation was completed in May and June, 1984.

Bibliography

Except where noted, all bibliographic materials are available in the C. Burr Artz Library, East Patrick Street, Frederick, Maryland in the Maryland Room.

Atlas of Frederick County, Maryland. Baltimore, Md.: Isaac Bond. E. Sachse & Co., Sun Iron Building, 1858..

Atlas of Frederick County, Maryland. Philadelphia: C. O. Titus & Co., 1873.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Frederick, Maryland. New York: Sanborn Publishing Company, 1887, 1892, 1897, 1904, 1911, 1922, 1930.

Williams Frederick Directory City Guide and Business Mirror 1859-1860. Frederick, Maryland: T.J.C. Williams. 1860.

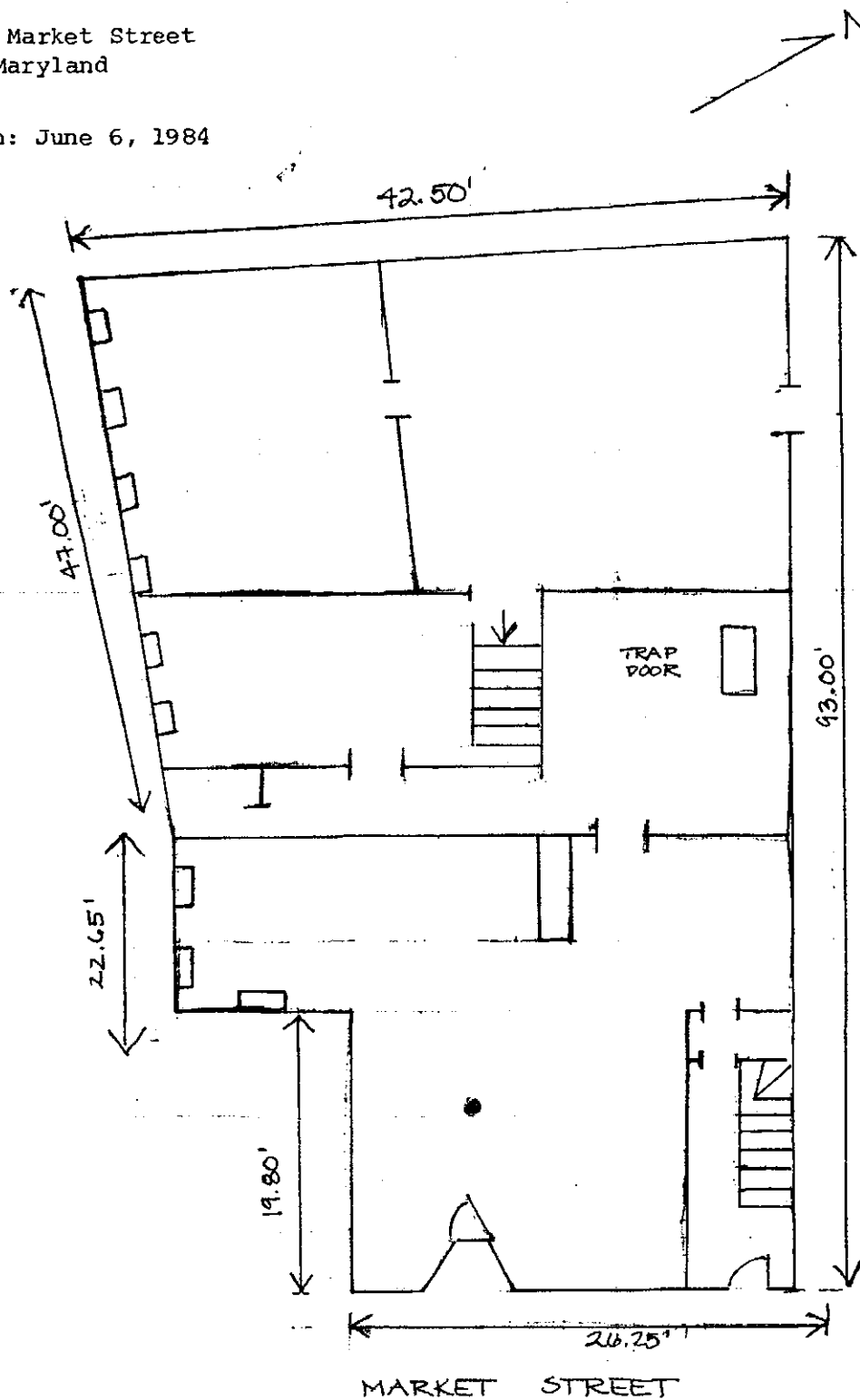
Interview with Paul P. Gordon, local historian and son of David Gordon, an owner of the building. June, 1984. Provided information on use of building.

Photograph of 59-61 South Market Street, Frederick, Maryland, c. 1950, located in the Frederick Historic Sites Survey Materials, City Hall, Frederick, Maryland. Provided information on documentation of storefront details.

59-61 South Market Street  
Frederick, Maryland

First Level

Sketch Drawn: June 6, 1984



59-61 South Market Street  
Frederick, Maryland

Second Level

Sketch Drawn: June 6, 1984

